

NOTE

The Star-nosed Mole, *Condylura cristata*, A New Host for
Leptinus orientamericanus (Coleoptera: Leptinidae) in Virginia

Leptinus orientamericanus Peck, 1982 is the only species among the 3 Nearctic species in the genus *Leptinus* to occur east of the Mississippi River in the United States. It is known from 17 states south of New England (Peck, 1982. Canadian Journal of Zoology 60: 1517–1527). The short-tail shrew, *Blarina brevicauda*, and the eastern mole, *Scalopus aquaticus*, are the first and second most documented hosts. Other hosts include the shrews *Sorex fumeus* and *Sorex frontalis* (lapsus for *Sorex fontinalis*?), the mole *Parascalops breweri*, and rarely the rodents *Peromyscus leucopus*, *Peromyscus maniculatus*, *Microtus pennsylvanicus*, *Pitymys pinetorum*, and *Clethrionomys gapperi* (Peck 1982. op cit.) Previous records from Virginia include “mole fur”—Culpeper County, “on mole”—Montgomery County, and *Scalopus aquaticus*—no other data.

On 24 October 1987, a male star-nosed mole, *Condylura cristata* (Linnaeus 1758) was captured by hand from under a board in a streamside meadow along Back Creek in Highland County, Virginia at an elevation of 1220 m. Ten *L. orientamericanus*, 2M and 8F, were brushed out of the pelage. *Condylura cristata* is a new host and Highland County a new locality for *L. orientamericanus*. Specimens have been mounted on slides in Canada balsam and are retained as accession number M-Ccr-1-87 in the collections at Northern Virginia Community College.

A survey of shrews and moles for leptinids was conducted in 7 states in eastern United States. Counties where animals infested with *Leptinus orientamericanus* were collected are listed in parentheses. Among mole species 1 out of 2 *Condylura cristata*

in VA (Highland County), 0 out of 1 *Parascalops breweri* in WV, and 1 out of 9 *Scalopus aquaticus* in VA (Fairfax County), were infested. *Blarina brevicauda* was the most commonly infested host with a prevalence of 11.9% of 135 examined. The mean intensity was low, with an average of 1.6 beetles per infested shrew. Four of 57 short-tail shrews in VA (Highland, King George, Tazewell Counties), 6 out of 47 in WV (Pendleton, Pocahontas, Randolph Counties), 3 out of 13 in PA (Allegheny County), 2 out of 7 in GA (Townsend County), 1 out of 7 in TN (Carter County), 0 out of 2 in NC, and 0 out of 1 in NJ were infested. Other species of shrews examined were negative for leptinids: *Cryptotis parva*, 19 (VA); *Sorex fumeus*, 1 (VA), 4 (WV); *Sorex cinereus*, 13 (VA), 5 (WV), 2 (GA); *Sorex dispar* 2 (WV), 1 (TN); *Sorex longirostris*, 10 (VA); and *Sorex palustris*, 1 (MD).

None of the rodents we have examined has been infested with leptinids. Of the 93 rodent nests we have examined with the use of the Berlese funnel, only 2 have yielded 3 *L. orientamericanus*. One of these was from Pocahontas County WV (1 male) and the other with 2 males from Culpeper County VA. We believe rodents are either minor or accidental hosts.

With the addition of *Condylura cristata*, species of all 5 genera of moles in North America are known as hosts of leptinids, and all 3 species of moles which occur in eastern United States are now known as hosts of *Leptinus orientamericanus*.

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